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Claim Amendments

1-3. (canceled)

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4. (previously presented) A telephony system in which a call can be handed off from a packet-based network to a circuit-switched network when the call invokes a feature that is supported by the circuit-switched network but is not implemented on the packet-based network, the system comprising:

a circuit switched network switch that routes the call onto a first voice trunk and transmits an initial address message associated with the call;

a first packet voice gateway, which sets up a connection between the first voice trunk and the packet-based network;

a first connection gateway that receives the initial address message;

a feature server that receives the initial address message forwarded from the first connection gateway, and conveys a routing message to a second connection gateway if the invoked feature cannot be provided by the feature server;

~~a~~ the second connection gateway that selects a second trunk onto which the call is routed, which second trunk is in a shared trunk group connected to a second circuit switched network switch;

a second packet voice gateway that sets up a connection between the packet based network and the second trunk;

~~a~~ the second circuit-switched network switch that is connected to the circuit-switched network, which second circuit-switched network switch receives the call via the second trunk and provides the feature invoked by the call; and

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the routing message from the feature server to the second connection gateway including a trunk selection parameter, which parameter is determined by the type of feature invoked by the call, and where the second connection gateway selects the second trunk based upon the trunk selection parameter.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, in which the second circuit-switched network switch provides at least one feature to the call, which feature is determined by the particular second trunk in the shared trunk group on which the call is received.

6-8. (canceled)

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9. (previously presented) A method for handing off a call from a packet-based telephony system to a circuit-switched telephony system for call processing, the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding to a packet network feature server signaling associated with the initiation of the call;

determining that the call invokes a feature that cannot be provided by the packet-based network;

routing the call from the packet-based network to a circuit-switched switch within a circuit-switched network by

assigning a trunk selection parameter corresponding to the feature invoked by the call, and

routing the call onto one of a plurality of trunks in a shared trunk group, which trunk is chosen based upon the assigned trunk selection parameter; and

processing the call on the circuit-switched network.

10-11. (canceled)

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12. (previously presented) A telephony system in which a call can be handed off from a packet-based network to a circuit-switched network when the call invokes a feature that is supported by the circuit-switched network but is not implemented on the packet-based network, the system comprising:

a packet-based network operatively connected to a circuit-switched network, the circuit-switched network supporting a call feature that is not implemented on the packet-based network;

a circuit switched network switch that routes the call onto a first voice trunk and transmits an initial address message associated with the call;

a first packet voice gateway, which sets up a connection between the first voice trunk and the packet-based network;

a first connection gateway that receives the initial address message;

a feature server that receives the initial address message forwarded from the first connection gateway, and conveys a routing message to a second connection gateway if the invoked feature cannot be provided by the feature server;

a second connection gateway that selects a second trunk onto which the call is routed, which second trunk is in a shared trunk group connected to a second circuit switched network switch, a second trunk being selected from the shared trunk group as a function of the invoked feature;

a second packet voice gateway that sets up a connection between the packet based network and the second trunk;

a second circuit-switched network switch that is connected to the circuit-switched network, which second circuit-switched switch receives the call via the second trunk and provides the feature invoked by the call; and

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the routing message from the feature server to the second connection gateway including a trunk selection parameter, which parameter is determined by the type of feature invoked by the call, and where the second connection gateway selects the second trunk based upon the trunk selection parameter.

13. (previously presented) The system according to claim 12, in which the second circuit-switched network switch provides at least one feature to the call, which feature is determined by the particular second trunk in the shared trunk group on which the call is received.